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Ministry of Education

NEW SURREY SCHOOL TO BOAST ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

SURREY – The Province has approved $10.9 million to build a new, environmentally friendly elementary school in one of B.C.'s fastest-growing school districts, Surrey-Cloverdale MLA Kevin Falcon announced today.

"While enrolment has been dropping in most school districts, Surrey needs new schools to accommodate the growing population," said Falcon. "It's even more significant to know the new Rosemary Heights West elementary school will feature a design that respects our environment."

The building will meet new standards for indoor environmental quality and will also be designed with sustainability in mind around water efficiency, energy use reduction and the use of regional materials. In order to save trees on the site, the school, parking and playfield have been oriented to maximize preservation. The new school will also be earthquake safe.

"This new school will meet the needs of the community while supporting our broader commitment to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020," said Education Minister Shirley Bond.

"The board looks forward to presenting a new elementary school in the Rosemary Heights area that the board and the entire school community will take pride in," says Surrey school board chair Shawn Wilson. "Our district continues to grow, and our board will continue to advocate for the best learning and working environments for our students and staff."

The new school will realize significant cost savings by repeating a design used for the construction of Morgan Elementary in the same neighbourhood. It will also be equipped with wireless technology.

Morgan Elementary is already 200 students over capacity and is projected to be 400 students over capacity by 2010. The new Rosemary Heights West school will accommodate 80 kindergarten and 350 elementary students and will handle projected enrolment increases over the next three or four years. The school is expected to be open in September 2008.

Community use of the school will also be encouraged. The gym and multipurpose room will be able to be locked off from the rest of the school for community events.

Since 2001/02, 27 capital projects worth $151.7 million have been completed in the Surrey school district, including $8.6 million for Cambridge elementary, $26.9 million for Panorama Ridge secondary, $7.8 million for Pacific Heights elementary and $10.1 million for White Rock elementary.

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As part of the Province's $1.5-billion seismic upgrade program, the Surrey district will also receive $12 million over three years for seismic upgrades to nine schools, including the recently completed Frank Hurt secondary gymnasium.

Since 2001, the Province spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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